

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for washing a rubber blanket on a blanket cylinder of a rotary press, said blanket having ends which are clamped in a clamping channel extending axially on the circumferential surface of said cylinder, said method comprising:

providing a cleaning element which can be pressed against blanket cylinder as said cylinder rotates, wherein said cleaning element is one of a cloth, a brush, and a doctor;

rotating said cylinder for a plurality of initial revolutions;

pressing said cleaning element against said blanket cylinder during said initial revolutions;

lifting said cleaning element off of said blanket cylinder each time the clamping channel passes under the cleaning element during said initial revolutions;

rotating said cylinder for at least one subsequent revolution following said initial revolutions; and

pressing said cleaning element against said blanket cylinder continuously during said at least one subsequent revolution.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Apparatus for washing a rubber blanket on a blanket cylinder of a rotary press, said blanket having ends which are clamped in a clamping

channel extending axially on the circumferential surface of said cylinder, said apparatus comprising:

a cleaning element which can be pressed against blanket cylinder as said cylinder rotates, wherein said cleaning element is one of a cloth, a brush, and a doctor;

a throwing-on device for pressing the cleaning element against the blanket cylinder and lifting the cleaning element off the blanket cylinder;

a transmitter which signals the position of the clamping channel as the blanket cylinder rotates; and

a control unit having an input connected to said transmitter and an output connected to said throwing-on device, said control unit being effective to cause said throwing-on device to press said cleaning element against said blanket cylinder during a plurality of initial revolutions of said cylinder and to lift said cleaning element off of said blanket cylinder each time the clamping channel passes under the cleaning element during said initial revolutions, and to cause said throwing-on device to press said cleaning element against said blanket cylinder continuously during at least one subsequent revolution following said initial revolutions.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (new): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said cleaning device is a cloth.

Claim 5 (new): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said cleaning device is a brush.

Claim 6 (new): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said cleaning device is a doctor.

Claim 7 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein said cleaning device is a cloth.

Claim 8 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein said cleaning device is a brush.

Claim 9 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein said cleaning device is a doctor.